

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 12

HUMAN EVENTS
31 October 1981

How Castro's Spies Destabilize

By DANIEL JAMES

The 130,000 refugees who flooded into the country from the Cuban port of Mariel in April 1980 were essentially pawns in a plan conceived by Cuban President Fidel Castro and his intelligence service to destabilize the United States while relieving Cuba of "excess" population it could not support. The existence of "Plan Bravo," as it is called—or Plan B—was revealed in an interview with a recent defector from Cuba's General Intelligence Directorate—or DGI—named Genaro Perez. Perez operated under cover of a DGI-run travel agency in Miami, Havanatur, a front for fleeing Cuban-Americans visiting Cuba and recruiting intelligence agents among them.

The CIA testified before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in June 1980 that it had warned the State Department, National Security Council, "and higher" authorities as early as Jan. 31, 1980, of Castro's intention to unload large numbers of new refugees upon the United States and create a problem. His removal of security guards from the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, on April 4, 1980, promptly causing thousands of Cubans to invade that embassy, "was probably calculated to precipitate a crisis and force the U.S. . . to accept sizable numbers of new refugees," the CIA further warned.

Under "Plan Bravo," Castro would go further and "unleash violence in the United States," charges Genaro Perez. "Riots, disturbances, bombings, shootouts, assaults on banks—an effort to terrorize the American public and government."

Utilization of Puerto Rican terrorists is vital to the plan, adds Perez. "Puerto Rican Communist terrorism is to break out in all parts of the United States—not only in New York or Chicago, but also Washington, Miami, Los Angeles. This is Castro's plan."

U.S. intelligence officers lend credence, in effect, to the latter statement. They are

Stirring up racial conflict here is also part of "Plan Bravo," continues Perez. "They are going to incite Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and blacks. Especially blacks."

One big U.S. city is already virtually a victim, intended or not, of the Castro design: Miami, where the vast majority of Mariel refugees ended up. Scarcely had they arrived than Liberty City, a predominantly black neighborhood, was all but razed to the ground by mostly unemployed black rioters; though originally incited by the brutal murder of a black by white police officers, many of them lashed out at Cubans for allegedly taking jobs away from them.

The Mariel and Liberty City troubles have discouraged tourists from visiting Miami, thus contributing to a serious decline in its economy, while resentment toward the Cuban newcomers—and Cubans generally—by both whites and blacks, mounts.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government was thrown into a state of massive confusion by the Mariel refugee flood, from which it has still not recovered. After spending \$700 million settling the new Cuban arrivals, it has yet to find a haven for a thousand or more criminals, crazies and sexual deviates Castro slipped in among them.

He also infiltrated into this country, under cover of the chaotic boatlift, "hundreds" of new intelligence operatives, according to reliable informants such as Tomas Regalado, a respected reporter for Radio WRHC Miami whose "Cuba Today" program is listened to widely in Cuba itself.

Now "another Mariel" is feared by U.S. officials. As one of them put it, "They"—meaning Castro and the DGI—"can create another Mariel any time they want." Upwards of 200,000 more Cubans, calculates the State Department conservatively, hold exit visas and

Will there be "another Mariel"? Are Castro and his DGI preparing to dump here more hundreds of thousands of Cubans, thus putting the new U.S. Administration to the test? Is President Reagan prepared to deal with that contingency?

Could Miami, for one, survive the shock of their arrival?

Castro would prefer, believes Perez,

not to proceed further with "Plan Bravo," but would rather see to fruition a "Plan Alpha," or "A," that has first priority. This aims at the crucial, practical, and more profitable objective of "normalizing" relations with the United States, beginning with removal of the 20-year trade embargo against Cuba.

"Normalization" of bilateral relations is the keystone of Castro's U.S. policy. Although it is thanks to his failed Marxist programs that the Cuban economy is in a shambles and unable even to feed the people—which in turn forces him to export "excess" human beings—Castro has made the embargo his whipping boy. It has indeed choked off international credit to Cuba, as Castro admits, without which it cannot buy the capital goods required for economic survival. Hence he has assigned his intelligence service the twofold task, under "Plan Alpha," of persuading Americans to support his demand for "normalization"—and in particular, for ending the embargo—while simultaneously using U.S. businessmen and DGI commercial fronts to violate the embargo and bring in forbidden products.

This and all other DGI operations in the United States are directed from the Cuban Mission to the United Nations, in New York City. The Mission, with a staff of 50 that rises to about 80 on special occasions such as General Assembly sessions, is the second largest in the U.N., although Cuba ranks among its smallest member countries.